

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 01407 081112Z

10

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OPR-02 EB-07 SS-15 PM-03 SP-02 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00

AID-05 FDRE-00 SY-05 PRS-01 /063 W

----- 035883

O 081030Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2272

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 1407

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR, VS

SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

REF: SAIGON 4270

1. CHASE MANHATTAN REP HAS INFORMED US THAT SISTER AND WIFE OF VIETNAMESE EMPLOYEE OF BANK IN SAIGON ARE EXPECTED TO REACH SINGAPORE SOMETIME TONIGHT ON SMALL VESSEL APPARENTLY HIRED TO BRING THEM TO SINGAPORE FROM SAIGON. THEY APPARENTLY HAVE NO PASSPORT OR DOCUMENTATION, OTHER THAN VIETNAMESE IDENTITY CARDS. EMPLOYEE IN QUESTION IS IN HONG KONG. HOW HE GOT THERE AND HIS PRESENT STATUS ARE UNCLEAR.

2. CHASE HAS SAID THEY WILLING COVER ALL COSTS OF MAINTENANCE AND ONWARD TRAVEL AND WOULD BE WILLING PROVIDE GUARANTEE TO THAT EFFECT TO GOS. CHASE CONCERNED, HOWEVER, OVER POSSIBILITY GOS LIKELY INSIST ON THEIR IMMEDIATE RETURN TO SAIGON AND HAS ASKED US TO INTERVENE.

3. OUR RESPONSE WAS THAT THESE PERSONS CLEARLY LEFT VIETNAM ILLEGALLY AND WOULD NOT BE WELCOMED BY GOS. SINCE THEY HAVE NO ENTITLEMENT TO U.S. VISA, WE THOUGHT OUR INTERVENTION WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE, AND GVN LIKELY OBJECT ON GROUNDS WE ARE AIDING AND ABETTING ILLEGAL EXITS VIETNAMESE NATIONALS. HOWEVER, WE NOTE FROM PARA 6 REFTEL THAT LOCAL EMPLOYEES (PRESUMABLY INCLUDING DEPENDENTS) ARE

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PAGE 02 SINGAP 01407 081112Z

INCLUDED IN SAIGON'S E&E PLAN. THIS OBVIOUSLY ASSUMES THAT AR-

RANGEMENTS WOULD BE MADE RESETTLE SUCH PERSONS IN EVENT E&E PLAN ACTIVATED.

4. THERE IS FAIR PROSPECT THAT GOS WOULD PERMIT THIS PAIR TO RESIDE HERE TEMPORARILY IF SOME ASSURANCE COULD BE GIVEN THAT THEY WOULD EVENTUALLY BE RELOCATED ELSEWHERE OR RETURNED TO SAIGON. IN THIS EVENT, GOS WOULD INSIST ON NO PUBLICITY.

5. SINCE IT IS LIKELY WE AND OTHER POSTS IN AREA WILL HAVE FURTHER INQUIRIES OF THIS KIND, GUIDANCE WOULD BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL.
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